

Federal Aviation Administration Warns Travelers About Laptop Scam at Airports

Courtesy of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)



We've recently learned of a hustle that's being employed at airports across the

country to steal laptop computers. It involves two persons who look for a victim carrying a laptop and approaching a metal detector. They position themselves in front of the unsuspecting passenger. They stall until the mark puts the laptop computer on the conveyor belt. Then the first subject moves through the metal detector easily.

The second subject sets off the detector and begins a slow process of emptying pockets, removing jewelry, etc. While this is happening, the first subject takes

the laptop as soon as it appears on the conveyor belt and moves away quickly.

When the passenger finally gets through the metal detector, the laptop is gone. The subject that picks it up heads into the gate area and disappears in the crowd. Sometimes a third subject will take a hand-off from the first subject and the computer is out of the restricted area before the mark even knows that it is gone.

When traveling with a laptop computer, avoid lines to enter a metal detector when possible. When you can't do that, delay putting your luggage and laptop on the conveyor belt until you are sure that you will be the next person through the metal detector. As you move through the metal detector, keep your eyes on the conveyor belt and watch for your luggage and laptop to come through as well as watching for what those in front of you are picking up.

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In a memorandum to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, (ASN RDA), the Secretary of the Navy proposed a new approach to IM. The

result was the creation of the Information Network Project Office (INPO), publisher of *InfoNet*.

INPO is a source of leadership, direction, and technical expertise on Navy IM matters. As a mentor and facilitator for the integration of Navy-wide area networking and services, INPO is currently establishing the Department of the Navy Headquarters Networks (DNHN) in Washington. Read more about INPO in the upcoming issue of *Dimensions*, the INPO quarterly newsletter. *InfoNet* is

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